

**Senate Bill 277**  
**Testimony to Senate Judiciary Committee**  
**January 23, 2007**

My name is Andy Hudak. I present my written testimony on behalf of the Montana Sex Offender Treatment Association (MSOTA). I, personally, have been involved in the sex offender treatment field for 23 years. I also specialize in the treatment of victims of abuse.

I write in support of SB 277. As an organization, we stand for community safety and containment of predators, while recognizing there are many ways to hold level 1 and 2 sex offenders accountable and make them responsible - not just prison - but also in outpatient treatment.

We appreciate the attempt to create legislation that recognizes the need to deal with the individual differences in terms of risk that exist among sex offenders. It also represents recognition that we have, for the last several years, been incarcerating lower risk sex offenders who could be successfully treated in the community at their own ((not taxpayers') expense.

Although MSOTA supports the bill and has no formal amendments prepared, our members would like to recommend committee deliberations include consideration of the following points.

- \* The bill simply does not go far enough to do much good. Because the criteria list is so extensive, this legislation will really have very little impact. The number of sex offenders to which it will apply is extremely minimal. It would help to base the criteria on "risk" rather than victim age and no priors.
- \* The criteria for release should include "input from the sex offender specialist risk assessment" (either in prison or at original sentencing). You could also add language that would require that a sex offender specialist concur with the decision to release.

I would be happy to answer any questions members of the committee may have. My contact information is listed below:

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